

GAGAKU

these things come in his mail
wedding invites
short chapters of a friend's
new
novel

now he hunches behind his typewriter
not typing
mumbling
talking to himself

now he types
then talks
then types the words he talked

lights a marlboro
thinks of aphrodite
visualizing her in bed
beneath him
rising up
then
rocking him
slow and graceful and perfect
as joni mitchell plays on her
phonograph

his other
half

knows there's demons in him and
other folks dedicate poems to him
wherein they tell him
they have demons in
them
too

but they do not exorcise their demons
in their poems

these things come in his mail and he is an
ass
and doesn't answer a half
of'em

he thinks of baudelaire and visualizes charles with
aphrodite only this time
charles is on the bottom